



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CENTRAL VALLEY RAIL PROJECT GETS FUNDS

Sacramento - Caltrans announced today that it has received a \$5 million federal grant that will go to the Kings Park Project in California's Central Valley to help fund a rail project in Kings County.

The project will connect a 4.5-mile existing section of tracks with another existing section of tracks, resulting in a 9.5-mile continuous double track in Kings County south of Hanford. This improvement will allow trains to move through the corridor at the maximum track speed of 79 mph.

"This location has been identified as one of the most congested points on Caltrans' San Joaquin rail corridor," said Caltrans Director Will Kempton. "It is estimated the project will reduce train delays by five hours per week."

California has the largest state-supported intercity passenger rail program in the nation. Caltrans provides about \$80 million annually to Amtrak to operate three routes (Capitol Corridor, Pacific Surfliner, and San Joaquin) for the state. Ridership on the routes reached a record 5.3 million in fiscal year 2007-08.

The federal grants are part of a new plan to improve intercity passenger rail service nationwide and will provide \$30 million to match local investments in 15 rail capacity enhancement projects across the nation. For more details about these projects, visit: <http://www.dot.gov/affairs/dot14208.htm>

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